



Free Hand Press - publishers of Mouth magazine

Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management
Re: Docket #2003P-0555
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061 (HFA-305)
Rockville, MD 20852

voice of the disability nation

7289 04 JUN 23 2004 5/26/2004

To Whom It May Concern,

In going along with organized psychiatry's intent to confirm [by the proposed reclassification from Class III to Class II devices], the unchecked, continuing, barely regulated use of "Electro-Convulsive Therapy" or "ECT" without independent evaluation and testing of its safety ever having been performed by the FDA is indicative of an FDA bankrupt of vision and bereft of principle. 'Yes' men in government agencies such as the FDA have granted psychiatry a blank check to violate human rights, mainly through its powerful and morally questionable procedure of involuntary commitment, a situation that allows all to turn a blind eye to its abuses: its use of coercion, deception, brutal and fraudulent "treatments."

Historically the institution of psychiatry has been antithetical to ideally citizen-enshrined human rights advancements, such as habeas corpus, established in the 13th century and threatened in all arenas today. To many, its activities have been like an ongoing Abu Ghraib scandal, but unlike that place, closure of this particular evil loophole in due process of law will likely be delayed for a hundred or two hundred more years. Corporate power and special interests are finally near to having rung the death knell to mankind's aspirations of democracy, and in this climate I don't really expect the public opinion to be heeded in FDA processes applicant to this matter.

Nevertheless I am obligated out of concern for others, now and in the probable far future, to attest again, to you, FDA, my personal truth of ECT's horrible impact upon my own life, and urge those members of the reviewing panel to for once stand up and do the right thing, and protect the public, as is the formal charge of their agency — its duty — by stopping the use of ECT immediately, until such time as independent, comprehensive evaluations will corroborate the historic, but quite relevant animal studies of the 40's and 50's, studies that found brain cell death beyond all reasonable doubt, and recognize that all apparent benefits to ECT are false and illusory, for all that is accomplished by electroshocking the brain, in the long term, is psychological trauma, memory damage, and brain disease, along with the failed lives that accompany such events.

Sincerely,

L. Calvin Grandy

L. Calvin Grandy
General Officer
Free Hand Press

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4201 SW 30th Street - Topeka, Kansas 66614-3023
phone (785) 272-2578 - fax (785) 272-7348 - www.mouthmag.org